



State Representative John E. Piscopo

Dear Friends,

The 2005 legislative session had mixed results for the citizens of the 76th District. The state House and Senate adopted a bloated budget, which I opposed, that violates the state's constitutional spending cap and increases taxes on employers.

However, there was some positive news for our towns. Once again, state grants for local schools and for road maintenance are up from the previous fiscal year.

Burlington's grant to reduce education and school costs to property taxpayers amounts to \$3,449,374, up from last year's total of \$3,348,907. State funding for local road maintenance amounts to \$112,259, an increase from 2004's total of \$80,093.

Harwinton's education grant amounts to \$2,380,996, an increase from 2004's total of \$2,311,647. The road maintenance grant amounts to \$99,146, up from \$70,737 in 2004.

Litchfield's education grant amounts to \$1,143,323, an increase from 2004's total of \$1,110,023. Funding for road maintenance amounts to \$156,774, up from last year's total of \$111,863.

Thomaston's school aid grant amounts to \$4,764,072, an increase from 2004's total of \$4,625,313. The road maintenance grant amounts to \$101,224, up from \$72,220 in 2004.

I also co-sponsored legislation requiring the state to install signs on Route 8 in Thomaston and I-84 in Waterbury for the Railroad Museum of New England. Another bill allows Connecticut farm wineries to ship directly to Connecticut consumers, which will benefit area wineries.

Thank you for the honor and privilege of representing you at our state legislature in Hartford.

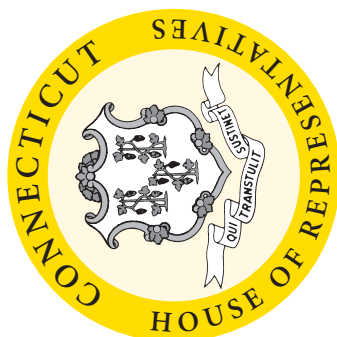
Sincerely,

John



Representative Piscopo and Representative DebraLee Hovey, R-Monroe, discuss a proposed amendment during the 2005 Legislative Session.

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State Representative JOHN E. PISCOPO Proudly Serving the 76th District Burlington ★ Harwinton ★ Litchfield ★ Thomaston



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2005 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative
JOHN E. PISCOPO
Proudly Serving the 76th District
Burlington ★ Harwinton ★ Litchfield ★ Thomaston



Rep. Piscopo listens to debate in the House Chamber during the 2005 Session.

PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS

Voting for Fiscal Responsibility

During the 2005 session, I and many of my colleagues spoke out for the average family. We know how hard people work, especially in a high tax state like Connecticut. Residents here pay the highest federal, state and local taxes per person. We have the largest per capita state debt, and a huge unfunded liability for teachers' and state employee pensions.

Honoring the Spending Cap

We fought efforts by special interest groups to increase spending and taxes faster than the growth in people's incomes. We voted to honor the constitutional spending cap, which was approved in 1992 by an overwhelming 80 percent of statewide voters.

Protecting Jobs

Connecticut lags behind the rest of the nation in job creation, income growth, and economic expansion. Now is not the time to impose job-killing tax increases and more regulation on employers. We opposed excessive spending increases and new regulations.

Protecting Property Rights

We voted to support Connecticut property owners in the wake of a recent Supreme Court decision allowing the City of New London to seize residents' homes to make way for an economic development project. We voted to limit government's ability to take property through eminent domain.

Fighting for Fair School Funding

I will continue to fight for a more equitable distribution of state education aid to our towns to enhance the quality of education in our public schools. Under the current school aid formula the state sends \$9,000 per pupil to students in the cities, while suburban communities receive as little as \$100 per student.

Ethics Reform

For a third year, the General Assembly approved legislation to further tighten the state's ethics requirements. We also abolished the State Ethics Commission and replaced it with a Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board and Office of State Ethics.

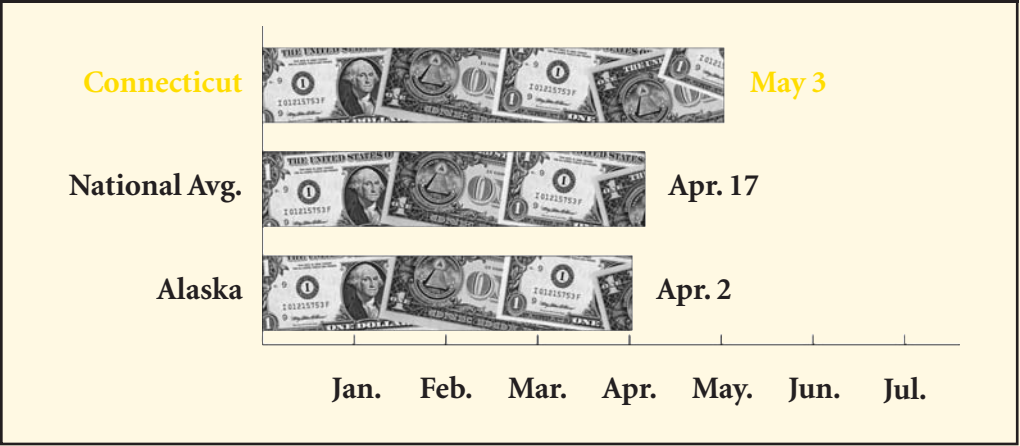
Campaign Finance

One issue that remains unresolved is how to limit the influence of special interest groups in political campaigns. Strict financial limits and complete disclosure, in my view, are a better approach than using taxpayer dollars to fund more political campaign spending.

Reforming the Legislature

We proposed negotiating the state budget in the open instead of behind closed doors, giving 72-hour public notice before voting on any new law, and requiring a public hearing on any tax increase.

CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS WORK 123 DAYS OUT OF THE YEAR JUST TO PAY THEIR TAXES



Preserving Eligibility for STEAP Grants

We enacted a law enabling towns to continue qualifying for Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grants when they no longer meet all the program's eligibility criteria.

Farmland Preservation

We approved new legislation that will help preserve and protect Connecticut's dwindling farm land and open space by allowing the agriculture commissioner to enter into joint ownership agreements with certain nonprofit organizations to acquire the development rights to qualified agricultural land.

Bi-state Long Island Sound Protection

We approved a new law providing for the creation of a New York - Connecticut Committee to help protect Long Island Sound. The committee would recommend legislation to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the impact of proposed industrial or other uses of the Sound's public trust resources.

Nursing Home Fire Safety

To ensure the safety of nursing home residents, we extended the deadline for nursing homes to install fire extinguishing systems from July 1, 2005 to July 31, 2007, and required them to be installed throughout the nursing home.

Coverage for Breast Cancer Screening

We required health insurers to offer both mammography and magnetic resonance imaging as options for breast cancer screening for women with family histories of breast cancer.

Consumer Protection

The House and Senate adopted legislation to help protect consumers from becoming victims of identity theft and bank fraud. We also enacted a law to prohibit the sale of gift certificates with expiration dates so that people who receive gift cards can redeem them for merchandise they really want at a time of their own choosing.

Landlord Identification

This new law allows municipalities to require nonresident landlords to maintain their current address on file with the city or town to help officials crack down on blighted properties.

Paramedic Recertification

We passed legislation allowing paramedics whose licenses have lapsed to be recertified on a temporary basis as emergency medical technicians (EMTs) under certain conditions and apply for renewal of their paramedic licenses or for recertification as EMTs before their temporary certificates expire.

Protecting Citizen Soldiers

We enacted legislation that provides workers compensation benefits to members of the Connecticut National Guard when they are called to active duty.

Corsair Designated State Aircraft

We designated the F4U Corsair as the State Aircraft to honor Vought-Sikorsky, United Aircraft, Pratt and Whitney and Hamilton Standard workers who produced the Corsair, the only major World War II combat aircraft built entirely in a single state.

Restricted Driving

The legislature voted to require 16- and 17-year olds learning to drive under learner's permits to have a minimum of twenty instead of eight hours of behind-the-wheel instruction before they qualify for drivers' licenses. It also prohibits 16- or 17-year old licensed drivers from driving from 12: 00 a. m. through 5: 00 a. m. unless they are traveling because of employment, school or religious activities, or medical necessity.

ID Requirement for Motor Vehicle Registration

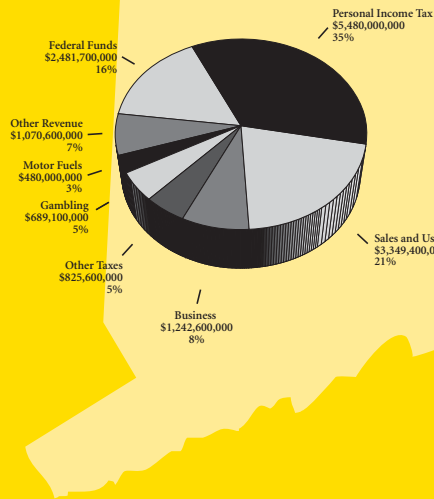
We authorized the Department of Motor Vehicles to require anyone who tries to register a motor vehicle to provide satisfactory personal identification and, if they are Connecticut residents, to obtain Connecticut driver's licenses or non-driver photo identification cards.

State Budget

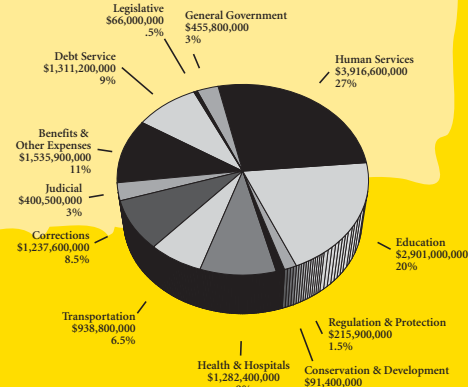
The legislature adopted a \$31-billion two-year budget that raised spending 9 percent the first year and 12 percent over two years. The budget increases taxes on employers and violates the state's constitutional spending cap. I could not support the excessive spending and tax increases this budget mandates.

BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2005 THE 2005 GENERAL FUND AND THE SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND SPENDS \$14.4 BILLION

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



*Revenues Exceeded Spending Leaving A General Fund Surplus of \$675 Million